

Minutes

Italian Village Society Complete Streets Implementing Committee

Thurs, July 28, 2016, 5:30pm, Seventh Son, 1101 N. Fourth St.

Present: Andy Klein (Chair), Isom Nivins, Christopher Vidoni, Stephanie Harris, Sherrill Massey, Betsy Pandora, James Rozewski, Shannon Fergus, Justin Warren

Andy called the Streets Committee to order at 5:33 pm in the backroom at the brewery, asking everyone to introduce themselves, say if they're going to the state fair, and what is their favorite part of the fair.

UIRF Reconsideration

Andy noted that following the UIRF meeting held June 1 the city's Mark Dravillas sent a clarifying email on the eligible projects for funding. Hull and Brickel Alleys between High Street and Pearl are not eligible for vehicular restrictions or sidewalks. Shannon noted the downtown SID had planters installed and maintained on Pearl and Lynn and that might be something to look into. Also, Stephanie noted we should further investigate the possibility of mirrors, striping or other measures that don't interfere with right of way, and private or public funding sources other than UIRF, with further discussion at future meetings. Andy asked if the treatment of Cherry Street could be applied in IV, Shannon noted that it's temporary and required the street be closed to vehicles. Our request for new sidewalks where none exist on Kerr (north of Hubbard) and Hamlet (North of Fourth Avenue) have been approved. The city also indicated the cost of decorative lighting along both sides of E. Fifth Avenue between High and Fourth Street is \$141,000, half of which would come from our UIRF allocation if we approve. Christopher noted that the Jeffrey developers have paid for such improvements in the past, Andy noted there are ongoing developments by both Burwell at Fifth and Summit and O'Brien at Fifth and Fourth. The timing of the lighting installation is also relevant to their developments, and Isom agreed to find out the projected timing of the lighting, and the city's policy on having developers pay for such improvements. Finally, the Second Avenue improvements we'd share with Milo-Grogan are still only conceptual, and require further development. Andy suggested that, in the face of the city's cool reaction, we work closely with Milo folks to make the US EPA's grand vision of an E. Second Avenue gateway a reality.

Prescott Street Closure

Betsy reported that the city has changed its plan to close Prescott to vehicular traffic due to business loading concerns, and is suggesting it be made eastbound one way from High to Pearl. Andy asked if the Borrer offer for funding was still on the table. Mark Dravillas' email indicated UIRF would not fund an alley on Prescott, based on the assumption it was closed to vehicular traffic. Later in his email, he indicated city policy is not to put

sidewalks in alleys. Betsy noted that repaving with asphalt is now underway on Prescott, along with Second and Fourth Avenues. A future meeting appears to be in order.

Reimagining the I-670 Exit and Undesignating US 23

Andy reported he and Stephanie met recently with Jason Sudy, IV Commissioner and urban planning instructor at OSU, to discuss creative solutions to the problem of cars speeding off the I-670 westbound exit onto N. Fourth Street. He noted that the widening of I-670 20 years ago included discussion of improvements to N. Fourth Street but they were deferred in favor enhancing the Neil Avenue overpass. Subsequent studies have determined that altering the current exit onto N. Fourth Street is unrealistic. The current exit is problematic due to congestion and lane shifting difficulties. Traffic currently using that ramp could instead use the ramp behind the convention center. Jason believes we should encourage the property owners (Wagenbrenner, Lykens, St. John's) to conduct an economic impact study on what closing the ramp would mean to enhancing the retail environment for that stretch of Fourth Street. Once we had figures showing the economic value of closing the exit, we could better advocate for such a change. Andy noted that we have an opportunity now to better develop the southern section of the Jeffrey, which remains unplanned, and that removing the US 23 designation from Fourth Street could make state approval of the closing of that exit easier. Shannon noted that traffic flow from downtown north on Fourth could also improve as a result of a closure. Justin noted that he uses that exit all the time and, having lived in LA, doesn't find it challenging.

Eden Alley Improvements

Shannon reported that excavation revealed an old gas tank which required a brief evacuation and then Columbia Gas intervention, which continues to delay completion of the project. We have had no further response from the city over the inadvertent removal of the trees adjoining Eden Alley as part of the Joseph construction. Justin asked what our policy was toward street trees, and Andy indicated this project was front and center, and approximately \$40,000 in UIRF funds were to go towards street trees in consultation with the city forester. Justin indicated he was having good luck getting a tree planted in the tree lawn at his new home on E. Fourth Avenue.

Sidewalks and Curbs Survey

Christopher reported he is trying to get maps and hopes to conduct the survey in September. Stephanie contacted Jason Sudy and believes his students might be of assistance. Andy contacted Ben Goodman but got no response.

Fourth Avenue Sidewalk Reconstruction

Andy contacted Columbia Gas concerning a property owner's concern with his brick sidewalk, it was promptly addressed and the property owner expressed his appreciation for our help. He also sent photos that showed handicapped ramps in Dublin which co-existed with brick sidewalks. Andy agreed to send the photos on to Isom.

Crosswalk at Summit and Third

Shannon and James discussed the dangerous pedestrian crossing by The Market for people headed to use the C-Bus, noting that the distance between traffic signals encourages vehicles speeding in an area who's retail developments are increasing pedestrian traffic. Andy noted that COTA has a stop for the #4 and 12 just north of the subject intersection, and another stop for those buses less than 2 blocks away. The future of the C-Bus at this location is also cloudy, and Stephanie suggested we invite COTA to a future general meeting., and agreed to touch base with them about their plans for those bus stops. Isom suggested a call for service through 311 would be helpful, Shannon indicated she had already placed that call.

Next meeting is August 25, 5:30pm. Adjourned at 6:36.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Klein, Chair, Streets Committee (07/28/16)

Next Meeting: **5:30 pm, Thursday, August 25, 2016 at Seventh Son, 1101 N. Fourth St.**